

the most respected professional certification available in the education field. Obtaining certification and completing the renewal process is a personal and public statement of one's commitment to the evolution of effective instruction methods. Certified educators support a vision of teaching based on the following five core principles:

1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning;
2. Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students;
3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning;
4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience; and
5. Teachers are members of learning communities.

I extend my personal congratulations and appreciation to the following National Board Certified Teachers for receiving their respective certifications and renewals:

Ali M. Allen, Minnieville Elementary School
 Cassandra Cornwell, Tyler Elementary School
 Carolyn Doyle, Montclair Elementary School
 Kimberly Lervold, Vaughan Elementary School
 Martha Lipscomb, Antietam Elementary School (Renewal)
 Jessica Mason, Triangle Elementary School
 Tanya Parrott, Chris Yung Elementary School (Renewal)
 Laura Provencio, Montclair Elementary School
 Sheryl Quinlan, Marsteller Middle School (Renewal)
 Kelly Serrano, West Gate Elementary School
 Sarah Tracy, Minnieville Elementary School
 Gerald Vile, Marsteller Middle School (Renewal)

Tamara Zimmerman, Saunders Middle School (Renewal)

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending these teachers for their commitment to education, professional development, and the students of Prince William County Public Schools. The world-class education provided to our students is due to the tireless efforts of teachers who make excellence the standard and I thank them for their invaluable contributions.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF U.S.
 ARMY COLONEL CAROLYN
 CLOSS-WALFORD

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Colonel Carolyn Closs-Walford, the Senior Strategic Advisor to the Director of the Army National Guard, on her retirement.

Colonel Closs-Walford is a career Army officer who dedicated her life to protecting and supporting our great nation. As a young college student at Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, she discovered her passion for the Army and joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). Upon graduation, she was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps and

accepted a reserve commission in the Army Reserve. While in Washington, D.C., she also completed her graduate studies at National Louis University and later transferred to the Quartermaster Corps to fulfill the Army Reserve's mission of combat service support.

Colonel Closs-Walford served as a "Citizen Soldier" and demonstrated continuous commitment throughout her deployment and service in Southwest Asia during Operation Desert Storm. Her impressive leadership skills did not go unnoticed, and Colonel Closs-Walford became a fulltime active soldier serving as the Logistics Planner for the European Command with extensive travel to Germany, Bosnia, and Kosovo.

Colonel Closs-Walford has devoted her life to public service. She has served in senior positions in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense and acted as an interagency liaison to the National Security Council, the United States Congress, and the Departments of Defense and State.

She has also had the distinct honor of serving as the Director for Global Outreach in the White House for U.S. Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, fulfilling a variety of roles that provided support to the President, Deputy National Security Advisor, and the Counselor to the President.

Additionally, Colonel Closs-Walford served members of the U.S. House of Representatives and their staffs in the Army's House Liaison Division where she tracked and influenced legislation that impacted the Army's budget and missions. Colonel Closs-Walford organized and led 16 congressional delegations to Iraq, more than any other Legislative Liaison during that time.

Her most recent assignment was in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), where she served as a Military Fellow. Hand-picked by the CSA, she was responsible for identifying and studying potential obstacles that the Army is projected to face in the year 2025 and beyond.

Colonel Closs-Walford's extensive experience in defending and protecting our country demonstrates her true commitment to our great nation, a dedication that deserves the highest recognition and acknowledgement. Colonel Closs-Walford embodies the definition of a true patriot, steadfast in her devotion to answer no matter what the call.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Closs-Walford has spent her life advancing the mission of the United States of America, on both the domestic and international stage. She has solidified a legacy of patriotism that will live on through each person that has been fortunate enough to work with her. On behalf of a most grateful nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Carolyn Closs-Walford on her retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present in the House chamber for certain roll call votes on Thursday, June 23rd. Had I been present on these days, I would have voted 'nay' on roll calls 339, 340, 341 and 342.

TRIBUTE TO DESHAUNA BARBER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Deshauna Barber of Northeast Washington, D.C., a graduate of Virginia State University and the University of Maryland University College, who was crowned Miss USA 2016 this month. Ms. Barber demonstrates the best qualities of District residents, and we believe she will bring out their best qualities as well during her reign. We are particularly proud that Ms. Barber is a lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve, serving as a Logistics Commander for the 988th Quartermaster Detachment Unit at Fort Meade, Maryland. She also works as an IT consultant at the United States Department of Commerce. During her downtime, Ms. Barber enjoys hometown D.C., and has a particular fondness for Gallery Place in Chinatown and our hometown staple Ben's Chili Bowl. Deshauna is a strong advocate for gender equality, particularly for our nation's military women. The nation, especially the District of Columbia, takes great pride in the constellation of characteristics and talents Miss District of Columbia brings to her work as Miss USA 2016.

A District resident has won Miss USA only three times. Lt. Barber's victory comes at a watershed moment when District residents will be asked to approve a new D.C. statehood constitution in November. This effort has already significantly increased the visibility of D.C. statehood throughout the country. Our D.C. Miss USA almost surely brings new interest in her hometown and everything about D.C., including its quest for statehood. Today, Miss USA 2016, Deshauna Barber, has earned not only her title, but, like the almost 700,000 other residents of the District, the right to full and equal citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Miss District of Columbia, Deshauna Barber, the 2016 Miss USA, and to thank her for her service to the country as a lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve and as a representative of the best of the citizens of the District of Columbia as Miss USA 2016.

RECOGNIZING THE 2016 LORDS AND LADIES FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 24, 2016

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia. Every year, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors selects two people from his or her district who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service, heroism, or other exceptional commitments and contributions to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, approximately 600 individuals have earned the honor of being named a Lord or Lady Fairfax by his or her representative on the Board of